



KIDS AT LAST MONTH'S CARNIVAL

Photo by Fuminori Sato

## THE HUERTA CASE GOES ON AND ON AND ON...

—by Betsy Randolph

A crowd of over 200 people filled the Horace Mann Middle School auditorium May 25, gathered in the name of "Justice for Dolores Huerta". United Farm Workers' vice president Huerta was severely beaten by San Francisco police at an anti-Bush demonstration last September. Despite recommendations to the Police Commission by the civilian "Office of Citizen Complaints", Huerta has yet to be recompensed by the city for the nearly fatal injuries she suffered as a result of the beating.

San Francisco supervisors Harry Britt and Terence Hallinan spoke at the meeting to lend their support, as well as attorney Tito Torres, who has defended many victims of police beatings, and four panelists. Later, more than 20 individuals queued for the open mike to make additional comments and tell personal stories of police brutality.

To many at the meeting, the Huerta case and its current impasse symbolize the frustrated struggle against police brutality generally in San Francisco. ACLU lawyer John Crew amazed the crowd with this statistic: \$5 1/2 million has been spent over the last three years to compensate for damages caused by police misconduct and brutality. The "Justice for Dolores Huerta Coalition" demands that the Police Commission and district attorney Arlo Smith investigate the assault of Huerta. Much debate also revolved around the "Office of Citizens Complaints" (created several years ago after passing as "Prop. A" on the ballot) and its effectiveness.

Supervisor Britt, who helped implement the OCC, noted that he hoped it would improve under the Agnos administration. Britt urged a "political solution" to the Huerta impasse, i.e. pressure from the

grassroots. Britt offered to "work with you... but the leadership is going to be up to you... this is a real work meeting, folks."

Attorney Torres pointed out that the Police Commission, an independent panel of Mayoral appointees, has the legal (subpoena) power and the responsibility to oversee and manage the Police Department (not "serve the Police Chief"). If the Police Commission is not willing to demand that the Huerta case be re-investigated, then Mayor Agnos should replace them, Torres advised.

Supervisor Hallinan questioned the need for a "tactical squad" (special force deployed for crowd control) within the Police Department in the first place; and, if necessary, how it could be reformed to prevent police brutality incidents in the future. (Police officer Frank Achim, who was videotaped clubbing Huerta, was a member of this squad.) Hallinan advocated control of the Police Department, and proposed a legal solution to the Huerta impasse between the OCC and the Police Chief. His plan would involve an independent hearing officer (judge) and preliminary hearing, in order to "clean up and strengthen" a case like Huerta's. As it stands, the OCC is not equipped to prepare a legal case.

Although Huerta herself was not present at the meeting, her son praised efforts to gather and send 10,000 plus signatures to Mayor Agnos about the case earlier that week. On her behalf, he also reminded everyone to boycott grapes.

Huerta's lawyer Diana Lyons addressed the meeting. She emphasized that this case meant "not only justice for Dolores Huerta, but also justice through Dolores Huerta, for everyone who tries to practice democracy."

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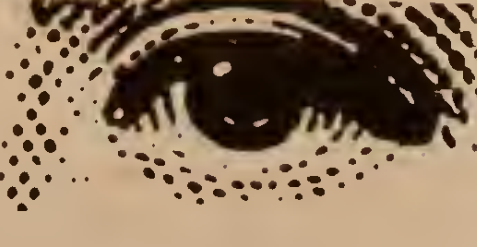



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# ARMORY PROJECT: THE LAST FIVE YARDS

by Kate  
Ingram

Plans to turn the National Guard Armory at 14th and Mission Street into film production studios are now in the final stages but still have not coalesced.

Stan Mattison who is the private developer in partnership with 11 non-profit Mission organizations (the Mission Armory Foundation) has floated a "phased development plan" which would scale down proposed building plans from five state-of-the-art sound stages. There is hope that by phasing the construction, the project can get off the ground sooner.

The scale of such a large renovation has combined the efforts of these 11 community groups along with support from the filmmaking community, spearheaded by Gregg Snazelle of Snazelle Film and Tape, located on Fell Street. Some months ago Stan Mattison, a golfing buddy of the Mayor, was brought in as the private developer. The escrow on the building's option ends July 22, which calls for a concerted game plan in order that the building's renovation can move forward.

At a meeting of the Mission Armory Foundation directors held May 1, representatives of member non-profit groups discussed the phased development concept. They were reluctant to see the building be open to other uses than a film center, which was supported by Agnos when he ran for Mayor. Some felt that Mattison has not made a strong enough effort to attract film business, and there is concern that if this does not happen from the outset, the venture's chances for success will be diminished.

Alfredo Rodriquez, who heads up the Mission Armory Foundation, feels the group is an asset to insuring the project's success. "These organizations have been in existence for 15-plus years, many for 20," he said. "They are block-grant funded which means they have a track record for provid-



Photo by Fuminori Sato

ing services in the area, such as job development, language and vocational skills, and helping small businesses get loans."

One reason the Armory building as a film center is a viable proposition is that financial projections by the developer would call for implementing rents at \$1.50 per square foot, which are substantially higher than commercial rents in the nearby area. While nearby commercial space is going for a much lower rate, South of Market rents for space in warehouse buildings that have been developed such as 350 Townsend (which houses a video post production facility and leases space to producers) have recently risen to \$1.40 to \$1.60 per square foot.

The Saul Zaentz Co. Film Center in Berkeley which, unlike the proposed Ar-

mory does not have sound stages but rather is leased as offices for producers, editing spaces, and audio production facilities was built a 1976. This past year has shown a significant increase in business there, where office space goes for about \$1.65 per square foot.

Having been designated an historic building, the Armory's potentials for use are restricted by limits on the types and amount of construction that can be done to the building's exterior. It has been at the expense of the Mission Armory Foundation that architectural plans to turn the Armory into a filmmaking facility have been drawn up and, at this point, the allocated portion of funds available to the Foundation for the Armory conversion that were slated for this preliminary phase are

used up.

At a meeting of the Mission Armory Foundation directors with the Mayor and developer Mattison upon both of their returning from the Far East, which was held May 18, Agnos once again endorsed his campaign promise to turn the Armory into a film facility.

One plan to help raise the funds necessary for construction to begin would call for City redevelopment funds to be funnelled into the Armory's construction. Given the restrictions on the architectural changes that can be made in renovating the building for future use, along with the character of the immediate neighborhood, there is no other use for the building that seems viable to the many supporters of the project as a filmmaking center.

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# PROJECT SHARE

—by Patrick Fahey-Gallegos

Some twenty years ago, the Bay Area gave birth to an idea which made it possible to unify ideology and praxis, where one could achieve the elusive goal of putting one's politics where one's mouth was—or in this case, where everyone else's mouth was—FOOD. The Food Co-op, an operation first pioneered by the Black Panthers in East Oakland, spread across this nation and dozens of others, emerging from the 1960's as one of its brightest flowers, unfettered through the most reactionary mood swings of the 1980's. PROJECT S.H.A.R.E. is one of its sweet, progenic outcomes.

Started by the American Friends Service Committee in 1985 in San Diego, Project SHARE sought to do what every Food Co-op before them had tried to do, cut the red tape and overhead costs involved in buying groceries.

The central idea of a Food Co-op is simple. You pay a fraction of the cost of groceries in exchange for community service. The public is informed through outreach (public service announcements, flyers, posters and direct phone calls or mailings). People register ahead of time and arrangements are made for food pick-up (at the "host" site) or delivery (for the disabled, elderly or the sick).

The acronym S.H.A.R.E. (Self-Help And Resource Exchange) is as simple, direct and effective as the operations and functions it carries out.

"Many of our registrants are elderly people," expressed Patrick Howard who, along with SHARE partner Trish Ahlstrand, co-ordinates the Bay Area chapter of SHARE through Swords To Ploughshares, the Vietnam Vet self-help organization on Valencia Street. "Swords is the 'host site' that we work out of. Food is delivered to Dolores Baptist Church at 15th & Dolores by me—I have a truck. They have cooking and storage facilities at the church, and we (Trish and I) are responsible for cooking and storage as well as coordinating distribution of the food with community service volunteers. The idea is to cut food costs to people who are willing to participate, which means once a person registers with us, they receive \$25-30 worth of groceries for \$12 and two hours of community service for the food co-op. Nothing is for profit. We just keep things rolling."

Like most medium-to-large grocery or chain-food stores, Project SHARE picks up most of their food from the Bayshore food warehouses. "We cut out the 'middle-man'—the chain stores—and just get the food more directly to people in exchange for a couple hours of time people have to help the operation go," said Patrick.

"We always could use help delivering food, helping people register or help trans-

and other breads, cheeses, peanut butter, margarine, potatoes, sweet potatoes, various fruits and so on. It's a good deal," explained Trish. "Also, SHARE's Bay Area operation covers not only San Francisco county, but also San Mateo, Marin, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma and Santa Cruz counties. We even provide information, through the SHARE newsletter, to D.S.S. (the Department of Social Services) for welfare recipients," Trish continued. "We help a lot of people."

Since SHARE charges only \$12 for



PART OF THE "FOOD FOR THE PEOPLE" MURAL BY PRECITA EYES MURALISTS, WITH ASSISTANCE BY PROJECT SHARE. Photo by Pat Howard

porting the food to the host sites, or people's houses who need it. Many of the people we serve, being elderly, need the service that volunteers provide, mostly picking up food or taking it to elderly people's homes. Two hours is all we ask per box. And it's kind of fun."

What kinds of food come in one box of food? "There are 18 different items per box: chicken, fish, turkey roast, pita bread

what amounts to \$25-30 worth of food—which figures to between fifty and sixty percent savings on groceries—is it safe to say that this difference amounts to the actual mark-up on the same food items sold at CALA, SAFEWAY or Rainbow Groceries? "I don't know," said Patrick. "It's probably not that simple, but yeah, food stores have to pay commercial rent, salaries, electricity and account for spoilage.

We don't have any of those costs. We charge the 12 bucks and two hours of service per box just so we break even."

A phone call to the progressive Rainbow Groceries (15th & Mission) had a similar sentiment. "Our grocery breaks about even, but this is after we pay overhead costs, rent, salaries. Our mark-up is, on average, about 30% across all food items," expressed Phil Bewley who, though breaking boxes as we spoke, is also a member of the Board Of Directors.

Several calls to CALA food stores with the same sample question left this writer feeling like an industrial spy; so similar were the responses, as noted verbatim in the last of three calls herein: "I'm the one in charge here, and I'm not authorized to give out that information. I don't wanna be the idiot that gave that information out." When I explained that there are half a dozen CALA stores and that I hadn't even asked his name, the manager repeated, "I don't wanna be the idiot..."

Several SAFEWAY stores were equally elusive: "No not a clue. No, my manager doesn't know. Nobody knows that. Nobody's supposed to know that. Are you calling from a phone booth?"

"One of the misconceptions about SHARE is that it's a giveaway, said one SHARE volunteer. "My social worker thinks that SHARE is a giveaway. She won't even let me tell my child's foster parent about SHARE. "They don't need it!" she told me.

"Hey, it costs twelve bucks plus two hours of community service per box. We even put out a SHARE newsletter which explains how to do 2 hours of service: spend time with an elderly person, pick-up or deliver food, doing research on nutrition, or passing out flyers, or writing and distributing public service announcements to radio stations, and so on.



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# HEALTH CENTER BUDGET SLASHED

- by Madcleine Sausotte

Ana Luisa G., 19, waits in the waiting room with two sick children and a worry that she will be turned down at Mission Neighborhood Health Center because she and her husband — a young couple from El Salvador — have virtually no money to pay for the visit.

But she has no choice: her infant has intestinal parasites which she can no longer ignore, and her three year-old has been coughing incessantly for weeks.

Ana's husband would pay, if his \$50-a-day job were more regular. But the neighbor who bought Ana and her kids to the Center says it doesn't matter, that the Center never turns down anyone because they have no money to pay.

Ana and her kids were lucky; the Center honored their promise and treated her kids.

But in the near future, health care could be drastically eroded for several thousand Mission district residents like Ana Luisa and her children if the Board of Supervisors adopts reductions proposed by the San Francisco Health Commission.

The proposal calls for a \$40,000 cut of the \$191,000 city grant upon which approximately 14% of the City's 10,000 currently-active patients rely. These are the medically-indigent adults (MIAs) who were once served by MediCal before its funds were slashed by Gov. Deukmejian in 1982.

That \$40,000 cut is not the only funding cut facing the Center, but it is by far one of the most severe. That 20% cut, according to Mission Neighborhood Health Center (MNHC) Executive Director Gladys Sandlin, would deny services to 25% of the MIAs the Center currently serves, and

would force their referral to San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH).

Even though the Dept. of Public Health's original proposed cut of \$90,000 was withdrawn, this \$40,000 cut is still quite sizeable given the cost-effective use the Center makes of its grants, and the fact that the Center faces future cuts from other funding sources.



Mission Neighborhood Health Center

A public hearing is scheduled for Monday June 19th on the effect of changes, including reductions, in services provided at City and County medical facilities proposed by Mayor Agnos to take place starting July 1, 1989. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the 4 PM meeting in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 2nd floor, City Hall.

Mission Neighborhood Health Center was San Francisco's first community-based health center. MNHC's patient population comprises 15,000 mainly Latino families residing in the Mission District and its outlying areas. 88% of MNHC's patients are Latino and, of these, 85% are monolingual.

The Center started in 1967 because of the Latino community's concern about the

increasing the likelihood of an emergency room visit once their problem becomes acute.

One MIA visit to MNHC now costs the health center \$44.00. This same visit at SFGH would cost the City \$89.25. An emergency room visit at SFGH would cost \$210.00.

According to MNHC's computations presented to the Health Commission on March 14, reducing the Center's grant by \$40,000 could actually result in \$100,000 actual MIA expense for the City by transferring their care to SFGH. City taxpayers would pick up the tab.

Sandlin says she has asked Health Commission President John Blumlein and the Mayor's office for a reconsideration of the proposed cut. At press time, Sandlin had not heard directly from either.

According to City budget analyst Susan Erlich, whom this reporter reached by phone, all City departments and agencies were asked to submit two budgets — one reflecting a 5% cut and another a 10% cut. The Mayor's office reviews and revises their submissions and sends its decision to the Board of Supervisors for final action.

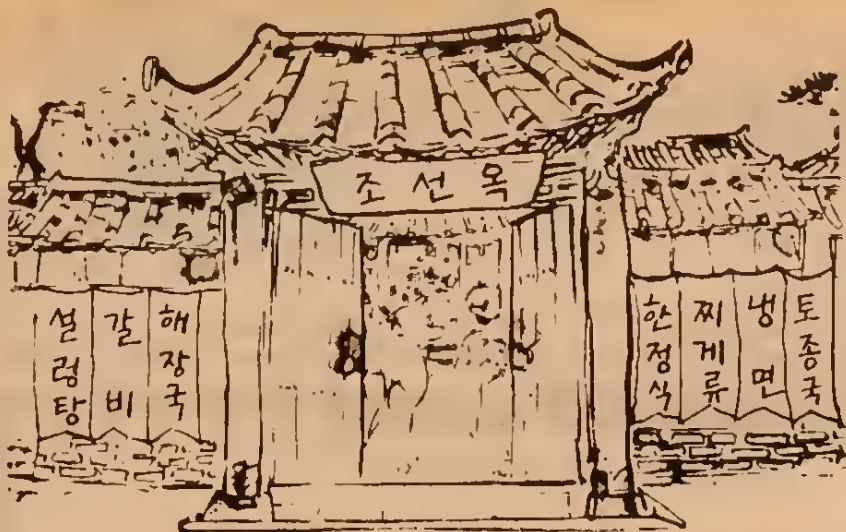
"Since asking the Health Commission to reconsider their proposed cut is not part of the budget-cutting process, we are not going to question their judgment," Erlich said.

When asked for specific comment on the plight of the MIAs whose fate hinges heavily on the proposed 20% cut, budget analyst Erlich was matter-of-fact:

"As of 1982 when Gov. Deukmejian's social service slashing began, those folks were dropped from State rolls and handed over to the counties where 70% of the State's money was supposed to have cov-

Photo by Fuminori Sato

## GRAND OPENING



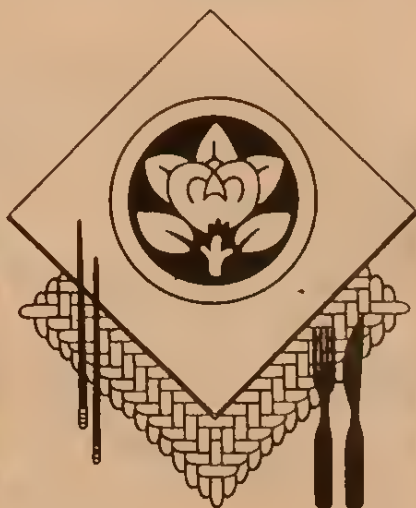
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ered them. But then the county dropped them as a specific aid category, and now they are uninsured people, just like anyone else," she said.

Erich also said that, even though the largest proportion of the city's discretionary general funds goes to health care, the City doesn't get nearly enough State and Federal money to cover its responsibilities, and that resources are constantly being stretched.

Director Sandlin disagrees with City officials concerning the origins of what she maintains are MIA-designated funds.

"The Department of Public Health originally contracted with MNHC to provide primary care to its indigent Latino population in 1982 when MediCal dropped coverage to them," Sandlin explained. "Those State funds which the city was now going to be administering were supposedly untouchable because they were in the form of a block grant and were to have been earmarked just for MIA use."

"Instead," she continued, "I later learned that the City put the approximately \$27 million into a general fund and did not restrict its use for MIAs. Consequently, they could cut from it... which they did," Sandlin maintains.

That move by the City is what Gladys Sandlin and other Latino health care providers are now trying to reverse.

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Over its 20-year existence, the Center has shown energy and tenacity in fighting to both receive and maintain funds to keep its doors open and its services available to indigent and low-income Latinos.

In 1982 when it lost a federal grant (Section 330 for primary health care), Sandlin and a group of MNHC workers, board members and volunteers went to Washington D.C. to confront then-Assistant Surgeon-General Dr. Edward Martin about it. They argued that the reduction was discriminatory against Latinos (Guadalupe Health Center in Daly City had also just been cut). They stressed that MNHC's whole purpose was to serve a distinct and different community, and to act as a stepping stone in the prevention of such diseases as tuberculosis, shigella and intestinal parasites that the newer Latino immigrants were bringing with them.

The Feds were convinced. But because MNHC had already been "officially cut", federal funds were rerouted through a sub-contractual agreement with San Francisco Medical Center Outpatient Improvement Programs. It was further agreed that MNHC was not to function as a satellite clinic, but would have its own Board of

Directors to guide the implementation of programs and use of monies as the Center deemed appropriate.

Through the years, however, there was a continuing erosion of hundreds of thousands in Federal money for programs which MNHC had requested — and were told had been approved — for their low-income patients. When the State began to do the same, MNHC started to make radical changes to help keep itself financially afloat.

It began charging its patients higher fees. It now charges \$15 for one primary medical care visit — 40% of cost — whereas in the 1970s it had been charging \$1.00, or 10% of the cost of a visit. Since 1988, its reimbursements from third-party insurance and self-pay charges have increased collections to 87%. MediCal collections have also risen as more patients are certified.

Its dedicated staff has been whittled down from approximately 200 in the 1970s to 63 today. But for the last eight years there have been no layoffs, even though most of the regular staff are paid for only 35 hours per week, and actually work well over that amount of time.

In addition to the cuts in City funds, MNHC now faces Gov. Deukmejian's plans to totally eliminate all State Family Planning Programs which would wreak havoc on the Latino community, affecting both unwanted teen pregnancies and an increase in sexually-transmitted diseases, specifically AIDS, both of which are significant and growing problems in the Latino community.

Even though Latinos face similar medical problems as other communities, the available monies to address these problems — such as AIDS, teen pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, diabetes among seniors — are in general far scarcer in the Latino community than, for example, in the Anglo community.

Dr. Concha Saucedo is the Executive Director of the Instituto Familiar de la Raza (IFR), the focal point for outpatient mental health services in the Mission. She says that a "Minority mandate for Health Care Services", sought from the City by many agencies and Third World Coalitions, was first granted in 1986 but has yet to be implemented.

"The City is dismissing the Latino population's mental health needs," Dr. Saucedo says, "by not designing — and delivering — linguistically and culturally-appropriate programs that could be of real use."

"We hear a lot of promises," she says.

"But words are cheap..."

And, according to Adolfo Mata, Executive Director of the Latino AIDS Project, its annual operating budget for last year was \$212,000.... but for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation it was \$6 million, and for the Shanti Project it was over \$1 million. In addition, the Latino AIDS Project expects a decrease to \$178,000 next year, "... and this is occurring even though the Department of Public Health estimates a 40%-50% rise in the incidence of AIDS among Latinos in the next few years," says Mata.

With the incidence of AIDS in the Latino community on the rise already 119% since July 1987 (according to figures from the San Francisco Department of Public Health AIDS Office), "national priorities need to shift dramatically to attack the kinds of epidemics we're seeing in our communities, in our cities," says Dr. Roberto Vasquez, a young physician who works most closely with the AIDS patients at MNHC.

Latino AIDS Project's Mata says that over 50% of Latinos who are diagnosed with AIDS first learn of their diagnosis in hospital emergency rooms. "It's a question of getting Latinos to deal more openly with AIDS, to at least not deny homosexuality," he emphasizes. "We must make education and information available to people involved in high-risk behavior. And we must realize how inter-connected it is with the entire Latino Community."

Mata went on to say that "every male AIDS client that LAP is treating or counseling — married or not — has had sex with another man."

"Consequently," MNHC's Sandlin says, "we're seeing more battered women in our Women's Clinic. Not only must we take care of women's alcohol, drug, teen pregnancy and pediatric-related problems, but now there's the additional one of increased physical violence and abuse by husbands and boyfriends because some Latinas have begun to take control of their sex lives around the AIDS issue," she says. She maintains that it is the women who are raising consciousness around topics that were once considered "taboo", even for discussion.

The IFR's Dr. Saucedo adds that progress is being made "among mainstream Latino families to dispel the old myths about sexuality and homosexuality. The Latino population in general is now much better-informed about AIDS than ever."

Sandlin contends that "what we as Latino health care providers need is grant money not only for education and advo-

cacy, but to develop a consortium to consolidate our efforts in seeking funds for direct, hands-on, AIDS-related services."

But she shakes her head and adds that, while AIDS is a very high priority, there are many others as well.

Which is why the funding cuts are coming at such an untimely and unfortunate period when the Center has either just begun implementing programs or has them on the drawing boards.

Among them are such current projects as:

- an HIV-positive asymptomatic health-maintenance program to counsel and treat people in the early stages of AIDS/ARC to help prolong their lives, which studies in the Anglo communities have shown produce positive results with early detection; will need trained staff, coordinator, and eventual facility expansion; a \$355,000 grant from the City has been secured;

- a pre-natal clinic and pediatric Infant Health Improvement Program for the first year of life; federal funding has been secured;

- video documentaries on substance abuse are currently being presented in the Center's waiting rooms with such success that people want them shown in their private homes; funding runs out in October but the Center is hopeful it will be renewed.

Among the planned projects for which funding is needed are:

- An AIDS education and prevention program using vans equipped with videotaped educational material, trained staff and a coordinator to do outreach in areas where high-risk people congregate (e.g., at gay bars, at sports events and concerts); a grant application was made to the (Federal) Center for Disease Control but no reply has been received.

Gladys Sandlin and the entire Mission Neighborhood Health Center staff keep looking for acceptable solutions. Layoffs, cut-backs and denial of services to the most needy people are not contemplated.

"When I feel like walking away from my job," she muses, "I get a letter from a patient thanking me for this or that... or I see a kid who's been encouraged to finish high school and is now in medical school. And so I am reaffirmed that we at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center are on the right track. It will be tough, but we will survive."

For a rosier view of the Health budget, see Mayor Agnos' column on the following page.

16th NOTE

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## BUDGET ADDRESSES HEALTH CARE NEEDS

- by Mayor Art Agnos

The 1989-90 budget increases overall spending for health programs by 5 percent. That increase is over and above added costs for Charter mandated salary raises for City employees.

Improved billing and revenue collection procedures are making it possible for us to initiate new services to meet new needs, while maintaining essential services.

This year, the Health Department will begin to provide primary health care at neighborhood district health clinics so that residents will not have to travel to San Francisco General to receive care for ordinary illnesses.

This has the double advantage of improving health service at the neighborhood level and increasing opportunities for maximizing City reimbursement for services provided.

There will be no cuts at San Francisco General Hospital, on which we all depend for emergency care. By the end of the fiscal year the bed count will rise from 330 to 382. Psychiatric beds will increase from 80 to 83.

The budget contains funding for 102 new nursing and non-nursing staff positions to care for the increased patient load.

It also includes dollars to add three new ambulances for emergency medical serv-

ices.

The focus of the budget is to insure that health services are provided in the most cost efficient way possible and concentrate on providing care for those who need it most.

We have added \$1.3 million new general fund dollars for care for people with AIDS.

The Health budget contains \$250,000 to fund a residential treatment facility for pregnant crack cocaine addicted women.

We have added \$145,000 to cover California Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements.

Expanding mental health treatment for jail inmates, as required by the Federal Courts, will cost \$1.3 million in new general fund dollars.

Based on Health Commission and staff recommendations, I have included \$2.7 million in new money for 4 percent cost of living increases for agencies that contract to provide mental health and substance abuse services for the City. There will be an additional increase for agency workers who now earn less than \$24,000.

Without the COLAs, it would be increasingly difficult for contractors to keep experienced staff and to provide quality services for the mentally ill.

Although most of the City's 65 mental health clinics will experience no budget cuts, we did have to make some adjust-

ments to accommodate new costs and expanded services in critical areas.

Two small clinics, the Social Skills Center near Civic Center and the 29th Street Outpatient Clinic, will be closed. Clients will be directed to other nearby facilities.

The Alemany Day Treatment Center, which now conducts activities for 22 clients, will be restructured to provide vocational and independent living skills for 150 to 200 clients.

The underutilized Japanese Family Service Clinic will receive 12 percent less funding than it did last year. Funding will decline by 2 percent for Richmond Area Multi-Services and Westside mental health clinics, but both clinics should be able to increase their Medi-Cal revenues to offset some of the reduction in City support.

We are also reducing funding for private psychiatric services for medically indigent adults from \$750,000 to \$640,000 since these private sector providers charge more than Medi-Cal rates.

Earlier this year it was predicted that a projected \$58 million budget shortfall would necessitate deep cuts in health services. By being smart and redirecting our resources, we were able to avoid such cuts and still provide new services in priority areas and neighborhood health centers. That's what I call a really balanced budget.

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# COMPOUND Q, THE STORY BEHIND CUCUMBER ROOT

It has recently been reported that an extract from a Chinese herb is useful in selectively destroying macrophages that contain the HIV AIDS virus. Many people are, thus, curious about this material.

The herb material is the root of Trichosanthes kirilowii, a member of the Cucurbitaceae, the plant family that includes cucumbers. It has thus been mistakenly called "cucumber root". Trichosanthes root was used in a compound folk remedy for inducing abortions when applied externally (i.e. vaginally). Researchers found that the active portion of the prescription was two of the six herbs, of which trichosanthes root was one (the other was glehnia spine). The composite recipe was tried out by researchers but found to cause adverse reactions in many individuals, including high fever and bleeding.

In 1971, it was found that the main

active constituent of the mixture was a protein from trichosanthes root, which is called trichosanthin. If this protein is injected into amniotic fluid or administered into the uterus, it induces abortion (about 92% effective rate) in 3-10 days, with virtually no side-effects. However, before using trichosanthin, physicians always conduct a skin test, injecting a small amount, in order to assure that there will be no anaphylactic reaction.

Trichosanthin is a single peptide chain consisting of 220 amino acids which is obtained from the trichosanthes root by a chemical process. It is unlikely to have any effect by ingestion, but rather, it will be effective only by injection. The root contains other types of active constituents which are effective by ingestion; these will have effects such as resolving phlegm, alleviating thirst and lowering blood sugar. It is

essentially non-toxic, but very large doses can cause adverse effects, such as spontaneous bleeding. Injection of the crude extract of the root can be very dangerous. Similar abortifacient proteins have been isolated from other Chinese herbs, such as Momordica charantia. The French abortifacient drug RU486 appears to be more interesting for purposes of safe and effective abortion..

The current excitement about trichosanthin results from the finding that it is toxic to macrophages that are infected by HIV but non-toxic to other macrophages (and other cells). Selective destruction of cells is quite difficult to achieve and is one reason why cancer drugs (which are designed to have selective effect against cancer cells, but fail to be completely selective) have such severe side-effects. However, even if it proves to be effective in this

manner in human subjects (tests to be conducted in San Francisco), it is still not clear whether trichosanthin will destroy other cells that might be infected by HIV, such as bone marrow cells. Thus, while the implications of the recent findings are promising, there is still much work to be done to demonstrate that it will be clinically effective. In the meantime, one should not try to personally utilize trichosanthes root or other similar materials in an effort to duplicate the initial experimental results.

Chinese herbs which are beneficial to persons with HIV are being used clinically (e.g. at the Quan Yin Clinic in San Francisco) and these should continue to be used until an injectable drug from trichosanthes is found safe and effective.

by Dr. Subhuti Dharmananda

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### Message No. 66

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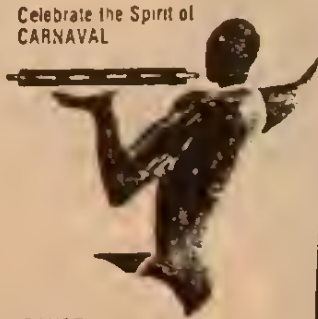
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A question that was asked over and over again at the hearing, but never answered, was: Why, if the City knew of these conditions, were they allowed to continue?" The question of the outrageous cost of these rooms is also one which was never suc-

(Presented to the Board of Supervisors' Human Services Committee, no action taken.)

Dorothy Enisman, Homeless Program



## VISUAL ART ACCESS



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140 PAGE #1

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THE APOLLO HOTEL

Photo by Jim Binder

Co-ordinator for the Department of Social Services, told the Supervisors that both the Apollo and City Center tenants were moved into the Geneva Towers, a subsidized housing project adjacent to the Sunnysdale Projects. Supervisor Alioto injected that she had seen Geneva Towers, stating, "It is not my idea of alternative housing."

Later, Jeanette Foster, a resident of the City Center Hotel and chief tenant organizer there, told the Committee that one family that had already been moved to the Towers had their front window shattered by a bullet. Ms. Foster, who has lived in the Apollo, City Center and Geneva Towers said she preferred the Apollo of the three sites.

Readers of our April, 1989 issue (Apollo Experiment Fails) will be familiar with the Apollo as a major crime problem and center of crack cocaine dealing. The Apollo, however, will not be an option (if you can call it that) for Ms. Foster or anybody else. The net result of the City's homeless program has been to make the place uninhabitable while major renovations are undertaken.

Sandy Weiner, an attorney with the In-

come Rights Project, also questioned the Geneva Towers referrals, calling them coercion. "If your choice is pay 95% of your income for rent or go to the Geneva Towers, you go to the Geneva Towers."

The hearings ended on the most dismal of notes; with the committee reaching no conclusions (except Supervisor Alioto's conclusion that she was ashamed of what she had heard) and recommending no action but agreeing to reconvene sometime in June.

In a telephone interview with Dorothy Enisman two weeks after the hearing, she told the North Mission News that the city, at present, could offer homeless families the emergency facilities of hotline hotels and shelters. The City's various homeless coordinators, monitors and observers will be huddling and rethinking this whole issue sometime in June, but Enisman admitted that, unless there is a large infusion of Federal funds to subsidize a program for homeless families, the City of San Francisco will probably be able to do nothing.

Whether the Human Services Committee will be able to come up with any more encouraging solutions when it reconvenes

remains to be seen. (At the May hearing, Supervisor Hongisto spent a good deal of time merely trying to determine how Enisman's job differed from that of Bob Prentice, the Mayor's Homeless Coordinator.

## THE SAFETY NET UNRAVELS

While the plight of homeless children continues to gather sympathetic publicity, the continued unraveling of the safety net has put more and more people of all kinds on the streets as the City struggles to cope. Homeless people themselves have spoken up against what they perceive as inefficient practices. And conversion of affordable housing in the Tenderloin, South of Market and Mission not only to office and tourist uses but to so-called "program" housing has led to a cruel and especially ironic competition between the "special-interest poor" (mental patients, addicts, parolees, etc.) served by these programs and the "simple poor" who have nothing wrong with them other than the lack of jobs, housing or both.

On May 12th, about two hundred homeless and their supporters, many allied with either the Homeless Task Force, an organization of homeless people, some of whom were formerly associated with the Homeless Union, and the Coalition on Homelessness, an umbrella group of service providers, marched from the Department of Social Services building at 150 Otis to City Hall to publicize measures that they believe would stabilize the homeless population in a more human way which, over the long run, would reduce costs.

"We want the city to provide an inside location for processing Hotline users," stated J. B. Saunders of the Homeless Task Force, "to cut the processing time to one day and to extend the stay from one to two weeks; we also want a central intake facility."

Because of the dispersion of private and public services, homeless people frequently spend their days walking from Hotline lines to soup kitchens, to food stamp, general assistance and social security offices to training programs or clinics, leaving little

So, starting from scratch, it would seem that the Committee has its work cut out for it. For the time being, that segment of the homeless population for whom it seems the City should be doing the most . . . children . . . are literally left out in the cold.

or no time to get their lives in order or look for work.

But despite the march and meetings with Julia Lopez and Dorothy Enisman of the Department of Social Services and Myra Snyder of the Mayor's Office on Health, the best that they could come away with was assurances that change would come as quickly as financial considerations permit.

The City denied the request for lengthening of Hotline stays in anticipation of a more fundamental welfare and housing reform called the Modified Payment Program which, Enisman, hopes would make 1,000 rooms available by July 1st. This program must survive the final round of budget cuts, but she stated she "feels certain" that funds will be made available, and that resultant savings will ease some of the pressure.

The City officials also hope that a phased changeover of the Hotline program will reduce existing long lines that are a source of irritation both to the homeless and to neighborhood residents, but, again, the difficulty in finding affordable office space to allow indoor lines was expressed by both Enisman and Snyder, who both claimed to be "looking for space".

If a potential site is located, Enisman promised "we will meet with the community. Not only the bureaucrats and the homeless, but the neighbors."

The sheer size of one centralized facility weighs against the demand for consolidation of services, but Snyder stated that the Mayor's office has been attempting to coordinate with both City and non-City agencies including Health, Rec. & Park, the Aging and Social Security. "We are looking at providing services in locations where various services are in close proximity to one another."

Neighborhood concerns about "warehousing" the homeless in a single, vast facility are considered legitimate by Saunders, who would accept "consolidation" of services in several areas with large homeless populations such as the Haight, Mission, Tenderloin and South of Market as an alternative to "centralization".

Snyder replied that the City hadn't studied decentralization of the Hotline as an alternative to the futile search for one, big affordable facility. Enisman opined that a neighborhood approach "would be complicated... not impossible, but complicated." The major obstacle, according to some social service providers, would be development of a system that would eliminate the possibility of welfare fraud by people signing up for rooms and services at multiple locations.

Enisman's position is that the Department is prioritizing the diverse components of the homeless population. "We will hold meetings with special populations," she told the News. "Our present concern is homeless families."

While an immediate resolution was not offered, the HTF and the COH can take some satisfaction at the strength of their support. "For the first time," Saunders stated, "a broad rainbow of citywide support for these reforms and initiatives has been established. Mayor Agnos and DSS General Manager Lopez are now faced with the questions whether this is what America is about and what are they going to do about it."

The HTF is associated with the North of Market Planning Coalition and can be reached at 474-2164. The COH, can be reached at 346-3740.

- by Victor Miller and Brian Doohan

## THE YORK THEATER

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# PEACE PACT ON WOODWARD ST.

by Victor Miller

A little less than a year ago, the Hotel Dolores, a 50 unit psychiatric halfway house located at 35 Woodward Avenue, was the subject of a series of shouting matches between neighborhood groups and City agencies. As we go to press, a formal agreement between the Woodward Street Council and the various agencies involved in the operation of the hotel is about to be signed. The agreement gives considerable power to a Neighborhood Review Board, which will oversee and report on the hotel's activities. The agreement, at the same time, guarantees the hotel's staff and residents will be fully integrated into the life of the surrounding community and that the project will be successful.

Woodward Street, a narrow, one block stretch between 14th Street and Duboce, with probably the highest concentration of kids this side of Disneyland, seems the least propitious place for launching a long-term housing project for former psychiatric patients. The chances of the program's success were further reduced when Community Mental Health Services (a division of the Public Health Dept.) and Conard House (a private contractor in charge of implementing the program) failed to let local residents know about their plans until a few days before the hotel was about to open.

The ensuing encounters between neighbors and project sponsors became rowdy, unpleasant affairs that eventually settled down into a series of neighborhood negotiation sessions. The neighbors channelled their wrath into the formation of a community organization, the Woodward Street Council, which has not only survived but broadened its scope of activities. The Hotel Dolores sponsors were now faced with formidable and articulate opposition and taking considerable flack in the press (including this paper).

By October, 1988, both sides were faced with a dilemma that made cooperation essential. On the one hand, the Health Department had committed a large amount of time and money to a project that obviously wasn't going to work if imposed on an unwilling and hostile community. On the other hand the Hotel Dolores, which had been vacant for nearly ten years, was likely to turn into one of those urban nightmares of crack and crooks that figure so promi-

nently in our local history. In fact, before the building was gutted by an arson fire in 1978, it had been just such a local menace.

On November 3rd, Deputy Mayor Myra Snyder, Dr. Reiko True, Director of Community Mental Health Services and members of the Woodward Street Council reached a tentative working arrangement which allowed the hotel to open. The working agreement was explained in the December, 1988 North Mission News:

"The review board, which will have 80% neighborhood representation, will act as a liaison between the Hotel Dolores and the neighborhood, many of whose members still have reservations about the project. After six months, the board will review the success of the program with regards to its impact on the community. If the board issues a negative declaration, the Mayor's office will re-examine the contract for possible termination.

"During this six-month trial period, CMHS will limit the total of hotel capacity to thirty guests, at the rate of ten admissions per month, for three months. The agreement calls for a review board member, who will be greed upon by both sides, to participate in the screening process."

This understanding has been followed more or less to the letter over the last seven months. During this time, a formal contract that includes the above outline and spells out responsibilities of all involved parties sets up a conflict resolution process and establishes criteria for changes in the Hotel Dolores program. It has been written, rewritten, debated and redebated. The 7-page document will be officially signed by the time this goes to press and the halfway house has now been successfully under way since late November.

In general, the problem of how communities and specialized housing programs can live together harmoniously has been given little consideration by the public agencies implementing these programs. The recent disastrous failure of the City's program for homeless families (see City Plan For Homeless Families Fails, page 10 this issue) is a case in point. The Apollo Hotel, only two blocks from the Hotel Dolores, is now being evacuated in order to make it liveable again. It can be argued that, had there been the type of community empowerment which has occurred with the

Photo by Fuminori Sato



Hotel Dolores, the Apollo would not have been such an unmitigated fiasco.

Excerpts from the following draft of the Woodward Street Council/Hotel Dolores Review Board's first appraisal of that project reflect that sentiment:

"The process of working together has yielded increased understanding between the community and the City agencies and other groups related to the program. All in all, everyone has been responsible to needs and requests related to being good neighbors. It is hard to say just now, since we are still involved in this process, what the long-term impact of the program will be in this heavily populated community. There is a strong sense that the people who live and work on Woodward Street, including

the residents and staff of the Hotel, are dedicated to making this a better place.

"All of this work has come at considerable time and effort on the part of members of the Hotel Dolores Review Board as well as Conard House and City employees. Yet it has resulted in the formation of the Woodward Street Council, a group which has taken on other neighborhood issues such as excess trash on the street and fighting crime. We hope these efforts will enable other neighborhoods to work more effectively when new programs are implemented, and we recommend that significantly better pre-planning efforts be made on the part of the government and other agencies in the future when such programs are proposed."

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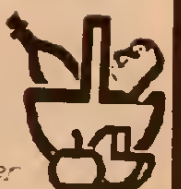


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It seems like only yesterday that the Martin DePorres soup kitchen/outreach center to the homeless lost their building on 23rd Street and were themselves on the verge of becoming homeless. As human interest stories go, this one was great. There was newspaper coverage, TV coverage and, as we all know, wherever there are newspapers and TV there are City politicians looking for "photo opportunities".

You probably remember how that episode turned out... at the last minute, funding and an affordable site were found... the bought and renovated an old garage in the industrial area at 225 Porro Street (near 16th)... they even brought the building up to earthquake code... and the soup kept flowing. Community lets out huge sigh of relief, fade-out, the end? Fat chance!

Four years have gone by since that cliff hanger. According to Abby Lehman, treasurer, administrative assistant and all-around staff person at Martin De Porres, the building is now totally paid off and all donations again go toward service to the poor, the homeless and families in special need.

But as Abby laughingly points out "We refer to life around here as the 'Soup Kitchen Soap Opera', it's always something!" What's the crisis now? Summer!

Over the winter holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas every radio station, Boy Scout troop and kite flyers' club flood the soup kitchens with food, donations and help to cook as well as dish up thousands of meals.

That's all fine and good, except that

## SOUP KITCHEN SOAP OPERA

by Nick Hornsfelt

**EVEN THESE TWO DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS.**



**ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS YOUR HELP. VOLUNTEER NOW.**

over the course of a full year millions of meals need to be prepared and served. The homeless are "on the job" 365 days a year, despite rumors that they go to Palm Springs for two weeks every Easter (well maybe in Pacific Heights they do, but not the homeless in our neighborhood!).

Martin De Porres is consistently providing between 1,000 and 2,000 meals a day... yes, a day!! But their volunteer staff drops from 12-14 per meal at holiday time to an average of 5 during the summer months. Cash is always nice, no operation like this ever has too much money, but right now Martin De Porres needs on-site volunteers to cook, serve and (Yuck!) clean up, not to mention actually interacting with the homeless.

Monday through Friday, volunteers are needed to prep and serve breakfast between the hours of 4:30 AM and 8:30. Tuesday through Friday, lunch preparation, serving and clean-up takes from around 9 AM to 4 PM. On Saturdays lunch is served and Sunday brunch from 9 to 10:30 AM is pretty well covered by church groups that have volunteered to handle one Sunday a month.

Abby says that on those two or three months a year when there are five Sundays in a month is a perfect time to come in and see how the operation is run but hey, why wait? If you can donate one shirt a week (3 or 4 hours) or even one shift a month, please call Martin De Porres at 552-0240 and ask about becoming a volunteer. After all, "As sands through the hourglass..."

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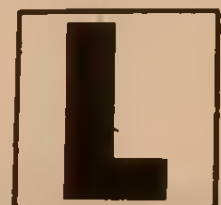
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# WORKING WRITER

by Michael S. Bell

Michael Amnasan is a writer. He lives on 14th Street. He is also a sheet metal worker, one of those technicians who builds all the stuff that makes hot air hot and cold air cold when it comes out the grating. We're also talking whole sides of buildings, like the one he's on now near Harrison and 16th.

In April, Amnasan got a spot lecturing or reading at Intersection for the Arts, as part of their ongoing program in literature. He is not new to the Bay Area, having been in the literary sphere around these parts most of the past decade or a bit more. So, since the American literary community is, in my view, undergoing several crises, it seemed appropriate to single out one of the finest, courageous practitioners of the art for some coverage. Something about his art reminds me of what it must be like to work in metal.

It takes time to create.

When considering how to write this piece I kept thinking of Eric Hoffer's impact as a historical Bay Area figure. Hoffer's work was often interpreted as reactionary, but even his detractors credit him for major insights. I suppose some would find Amnasan somewhat on that side too, were it not for the difference in decades between the two artists.

We here enjoy a lengthy tradition of such "working class" writers, or those who write about or from that point of view. Among the many, one might include William Schneidermann, Mike Gold, Hoffer, Herb Mills, Tillie Olsen, Carl Yoneda, Angela Davis and Herbert Aptheker in such a group. Though they obviously differ greatly, the common thread of how true labor, actual work, produces some of the inspiration for ideas looms significant.

Amnasan's reading of his essay titled SOCIAL REALITY OR SOCIAL ENGINEERING? started early with these words: "Culture in the U.S. is shaped by business

to the extent that where a kind of work might be very bleak, rough and fundamental, in the social conventions that are part of it, the entire life of the person who performs that work will typically be removed from all but rather bleak settings..."

Exposed as he is daily to the views and positions taken by his colleagues in the work place, Amnasan's writing aims to reveal the effects of both outside and inside influences. To be concerned with what is supposedly understood to be the domain of blue collar attitudes and to transfer this to actual unification of classes, as no class is immune from certain particularly human priorities and emotions, is as much about his personal survival as it is about ours.

I was struck in hearing him speak that so many people unknowingly depend for comfort upon workers such as those in sheet metal every day, and this unknowing is a kind of irresponsible ignorance. His reading began to remind me of the Little Red Hen children's story, I was made aware of my own insensitivity to a pulse, a voice, seldom felt or heard.

If one were to recognize solely the mainstream news of culture in America, the impression might well be justified that such was the true heart of our people. And though we pride ourselves on having postures encompassing one and all, Amnasan's reading made me realize that indeed we do not. Furthermore, his ideas alarmed my senses on the issue of how potentially destructive so-called Pluralism (hence Post-Modernism in art) could become if unstudied in detail. The idea that we are a Pluralist society, that is to say one in which a multiplicity of human factors is, in itself, controlling all matters of concern rather than one or more major trends, has not seemed quite right. Yet the presence of such thinking has, as Amnasan pointed out, become just another form of propaganda.

Though he did not deny all contribu-



Photo by Pedro Esquivel

MICHAEL AMNASAN

tions which have resulted from institutionalized levelling, his reading gave rise to significant questions. Among the most significant of these, for me, was "If Pluralism were to have truly acknowledged a variegated society in a cultural sense, then how can one explain the almost total absence of cultural viewpoints expressed by those who are not actually considered participants in the dominant cultural force?"

Here, he was referring to workers themselves, people like Amnasan and Hoffer, and not to works about workers, or worker interpretations of allegedly great works of art. As the artist went on through his lengthy piece, I continuously imagined myself working every day with my wits and hands and tools, under the pressures of time and physics and union vs. management constraints, with people who did not hold themselves out as artists but whose labor has created as much culture as anyone else. Understandably this realization may not be unique, but it is offered again by way of remembering.

My impression, doubtless shared by many readers, is that those who perceive themselves in control, at the helm, of culture are even less so than we dreamt.

Amnasan is a worker, and he is proud of that. But I was amazed to find myself just then learning, just then discovering a region of American/human creativity that finally does supercede opinion polls. It was both embarrassing and hopeful. Neither his purpose nor mine is a call to establishment of another support or non-profit group, it was not an anguished call for respect. Rather, Amnasan gently told the audience what they already through they know, and he did so with incredible, piercing clarity.

Writers for newspapers, such as I occasionally am, are limited for better or worse, by space on the printed page. Consequently, one is unable to quote lengthy sections or to wax excessively philosophic about newsworthy items. But one stellar remark Amnasan made that evening must be retold here. He began telling of a comment from the SF Chronicle concerning ATM machines which said, "People get absolutely furious. It is not uncommon to see well-educated people... get frustrated when their cards are taken." Responding to this comment, Amnasan said, "'Well educated' is virtually an American colloquial expression used to designate someone whose behavior should, under normal conditions,

be exemplary. Apprenticeships, although they involve learning skills, are not expected to have a similar effect on behavior, essentially because 'well educated', in this usage, refers more to the social graces of a particular class than to learned skills. Frustration is a telling term in that the means through which the lower classes might resolve their frustrations are being progressively eroded, so that this class distinction is, at this very moment, being further engineered into hard reality."

Some of the audience laughed. I was shocked, brutally shocked, by this articulation of class oriented bigotry. We all suppose that we know that such chasms exist, but Amnasan's point goes beyond what is known to that which is believed.

Were Pluralism, that self-righteous distortion which replaced an angry and harsh Modernism, to have any lasting merit it would have acknowledged and found ways to let the voices all be heard. It has not done so, nor is it likely to. That was the message I got from Michael Amnasan.

We have Pluralism to thank for the almost unimaginable improvement in Frisco's urban skyline downtown. Those oddly shaped, lovingly ornamental tops of buildings one sees of late are one consequence of the cultural impact diversity has brought forth. Note though, how often one reads negative analysis of the new architecture.

Again, Amnasan's words return, "A worker with intellectual pretensions has to suspend interests on a regular basis... I doubt if there is any other realistic approach for locating theory in the world outside the university." In the main, people enjoy those new buildings downtown, their shapes are fascinating, they are fun. But even now, the mainstream militates against what can be understood as humane.

What I got from Amnasan's reading is still within me, this is no attempt to explain his or society's views in total. Yet the words of another fine writer, Tracy Chapman, seem to be an appropriate closing here:

"The life I've always wanted  
I guess I'll never have  
I'll be working for somebody else  
Until I'm in my grave  
I'll be dreaming of a life of ease  
And mountains  
Oh mountains of things..."

The protoculture, uniting art, science and technology is beginning to construct the aesthetic economy.

RICHARD MILLER

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# RUSSIAN POETS MEET THE MISSION --by John Elliott

How can you pick four Russian poets out of the crowd at the Albion? It's easy—find the ones who look *least* like poets. Locate the clothes of the seventies, and within them you'll find the literary voices of the nineties.

Two days into their first-ever visit to the United States, four Soviet poets entered the heart of the North Mission, the purported New Bohemia, and emerged as diffident celebrities. The foursome—Nina Iskrenko, Aleksei Parshchikov, Ivan Zhdanov, and Aleksander Eremenko—dined at La Rondalla, toured the galleries and performance centers of Valencia Street, mingled at an Adobe Bookstore reception, and finally, read their work at the Albion.

The reading at the Albion, done both in Russian and English, offered the most revealing contrasts. Within this lair of lavish artistic pretense, the poets took the small stage and presented their work with simplicity and poise. As patrons sat at the bar reflecting upon the avant-garde, these unassuming poets offered their version of the real thing, which has more to do with language than look. The English translations, read by John High and Katya Olmstead, reflected poetry which, despite being wrapped in the traditional medium of verse, is rich with experiment and wit.

Indeed, some major publications in the Soviet Literary Machine have considered their poetry a little *too* experimental, an ostensibly aesthetic judgment which has sometimes shrouded political censorship. In the recent years of Glasnost, however, more progressive publications have begun to publish their work.

For their part, the poets seemed as refreshed by the hip ambiance of the Albion as the audience was by their unpretentious reading.

"The Albion is a great place to read," Parshchikov said afterwards as he downed a pint of beer. In the Soviet Union, he explained, poetry readings are done in academic settings, in auditoriums and classrooms, rather than clubs and cafés.

At a reception held earlier at the Adobe Bookstore, a large crowd of locals munched on Tassajara pastries, drank wine, and took the opportunity meet and talk with the poets. The reception was the first to be held at the newly opened 16th Street bookstore, and its success ensures more of the same, including a *Comic Book Confidential* party on June 28th.

Several people asked the poets if it was possible to make a living as a poet in the Soviet Union.

"Poetry is not a job," responded Parshchikov. "A poet writes whether he gets paid or not." He explained that he maintains a job as an editor of a agricultural newspaper, and that he writes poetry during his one-hour underground commute to and

tion for Poetry. Support from other domestic sources has not yet matched that of the Writer's Union, which paid the bulk of travel expenses. Despite the uneven support, the LAB's directors, Allen Millar and Anna Cunningham, have professionally orchestrated a landmark cultural exchange.

The contribution from the Soviet Writer's Union is remarkable in that only one of the four poets, Ivan, is a member of this powerful group which has traditionally controlled publishing in the country. Although the other poets expressed appreciation of the Union's contribution, they added that they did not need or want to join the group, instead choosing to join and promote alternative organizations such as the Moscow Poetry Club.

The poets are determined to establish these alternatives in order to express the from work.

Nina suggested that although it is difficult to be a poet in the Soviet Union, it might be even more difficult in America, where the explosion of mass media has diminished exposure to and support for more traditional mediums. By contrast, poetry and literature remain an integral part of the lives of most Soviet citizens.

At times, the poets' seemed uncomfortable with the sudden attention from people whose questions indicated they knew little of them other than their nationality.

"I'm anobody in the Soviet Union," Nina told a group of curious admirers during the Adobe Bookstore reception. To those people eager to hear stories of literary repression, she added, "I never had trouble for what I write—it's hard to get in trouble if you can't publish."

To herself she is a simple writer, but to the people behind The-art-re-grüp and the LAB, the Divisadero Street arts groups which coordinated the visit, Nina and her comrades represent the vanguard of underground poetry in the Soviet Union. Only a five years ago these poets were essentially unrecognized in the Soviet Union, partially due to the state-controlled publishing regime; now, riding the wave of perestroika, their work is receiving attention not only in their own country but also around the world.

John High, The-art-re-grüp's artist-in-residence who has been studying emerging Soviet poetry, was the driving force behind the visit. High has translated work from each of the poets; these translations appeared in the May issue of *Poetry Flash*, and will be published more extensively in the *Five Fingers Review* #7 and in the upcoming anthology, *Weaving A Whirlwind From the Fragments: New Soviet Poetry During the Age of Perestroika*.

The poets visit to the United States was primarily funded by the Soviet Writer's Union, while High's residency has been supported by the Witter Bynner Founda-



From right to left: NINA ISKRENKO, ALEKSANDER EREMenKO, ALEKSEI PARSHCHNIKOV, IVAN ZHANDOV and JOHN HIGH

new descriptive language which they seek.

Such raw determination is harder to detect in San Francisco, where the pomp of new media often overwhelms innovations in traditional art. It's easy enough to spot the disparate flashes of artistic effort, but it is difficult to identify the coordinated zeal of a movement, and harder still to find the support for such a movement.

A young American poet from the Mission, Stephen Fowler, told the poets, "I hope someday I can travel to the Soviet Union and be received as well as you have been here." Ivan responded that once he got to Moscow, all would be taken care of. Now, all he needs are a few good poems, a plane ticket, and, if he wants to be *really* groovy, some seventies clothes.

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# EL SALVADOR: FRONTLINE AND HOMEFRONT

## PART ONE FRONTLINE

by Michael Page

The following is an interview with a member of the Mission activist community, a mental health worker in an agency that responds to needs in the Latino community. She herself is Latina, 30 years old and people know her for her continued involvement in cultural, political and community action. Ana Rosa (AR), a name she chose for this article, went last month to El Salvador to find out what was going on and to make links with some mass organizations there. Her insights into the political as well as the personal effect of Salvador's long struggle toward its freedom are insightful and offer us some perspective into our own questions as we relate to Salvadoreans in our community and to the U.S. policies that operate in Central America.

AR: I was 2 weeks in El Salvador, invited by the National University in San Salvador. When I got to the University, after getting through all the hassles at the airport, I observed that immediately that people were very fearful. Some people didn't want to talk to me. Just before I got there the military had encircled the whole school. I was originally going to stay in the homes of faculty. But some bombs had been planted in some of their homes, even in the home of the Dean of the School of Humanities, so this made staying with the faculty impossible.

NMN: Were you still able to have meetings with the students' organizations?

AR: Yes. The student organizations are targets for repression (by the government's military forces). In that week before I got there there had been break-ins and their offices had been ransacked. All people found there were arrested, including old people and children. Public outcry and international pressure caused them to release some, but many were tortured and, later, imprisoned.

NMN: Are these above-ground organizations?

AR: Yes. Organizations work legally because it says in the Constitution that El Salvador is a free country and that these groups have the right to operate.

with machine guns. There were times where I saw the military block off the street or market place and, if you are caught inside the blockades, you're subject to search, your papers are inspected. This is how they

lot of people looking down at the ground or people with very anxious looks on their faces. You can see them anxious and scared.

NMN: What about the rich people?

AR: When I went to the wealthy neighborhoods it was like going into a different world, like no war was going on at all. They have discos and shopping center, it's totally different. The upper classes still have a very comfortable life there. The government calls the FMLN terrorists. A Honduran man I had dinner with asked, "then why hasn't the FMLN bombed these places if they really are terrorists?"

NMN: Did you see any confrontation or political actions while you were there?

AR: There was a May 1st (International Worker's Day) march in which 30-40 thousand people attended.

NMN: Did the military just stand by?

AR: They were always present.

NMN: How did the media present this?

AR: Three fourths of the media is society stuff - who's getting married, who's having a party. There are articles about the guerrillas they've found or some deposits of arms and articles where they attribute some acts of violence to the FMLN. It wasn't until I got back that I realized that I didn't see one article about the military committing violence against the FMLN or against anyone. On TV, they had Armed Service Day, kind of like this day. Even on May First, they put on commercials saying "(Workers of El Salvador), we're on your side".

NMN: Just like here. Did you see any FMLN communiques, hear Radio Farabundo Marti, what about spraypainted communications?

AR: There's spraypainting all over the walls. I can't explain the feeling of walking down the street and reading the names of the political prisoners on the wall when you know who they are, when you've visited them in jail as I had.

Ana Rosa talks about the horrendous conditions she saw at the women's prison. She reports lack of adequate food, shelter (the prison was partially damaged in the earthquake and they



Photo by Totoy

There is a contradiction here because while they work above ground, they're all the time subject to break-ins, arrests, torture...

NMN: What does the military presence look like?

AR: The military is everywhere. There were military platoons on every block. Panther commandoes, they're called...

do forced recruitments. If you refuse to go, they can shoot you.

I understand the strategy of the government has changed because you now don't see dead bodies in the streets of the Capital or open repression as much as before. They do check peoples' bags. I saw them stop women in the market and feel their bags of flour to see if they had something they weren't supposed to. The psychological effect of this alone is so strong. Even if they don't hit you or do something obviously violent, you feel a constant stress and threat. At any moment they can stop you and take you away, and I felt that too.

NMN: Did you talk to any people on the streets or in the buses who defend things the way they are?

AR: No. The situation is so tense. It's like an armed camp. I saw a



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haven't repaired it). There is lack of a sewage system, lack of security, beds, people sleeping on the floor and no apparent program for prisoners. As she put it, "the main objective is to keep them in".

NMN: Do people there talk about the victory or the war ending?

AR: Of course it is something that people are always looking forward to. And this is something that keeps them going.

NMN: They say that El Salvador is a democracy which makes people here who don't know any different that everything is cool but it sounds a lot like Chile or like a government dominated by the military forces.

AR: I think it is a selective democracy. The people who have money do have some say in what the government does. When I was there, there was a proposal made to make the voter's registration card the official ID that everyone must carry. What that means is that whoever didn't register or participate in elections broke the law for having no ID and marked as a subversive and is subject to arrest.

NMN: You must have felt afraid sometimes.

AR: Yeah, it would have probably been much less if I had gone with other people. I wanted, at times, contact with others. I felt like I had to be always hiding. I am Latina and, in some ways, that makes me more vulnerable. I don't have the blonde hair and blue eyes to American citizen in El Salvador. Some people thought I was Salvadorean and this could be a very unfortunate mistake at the wrong time. Although I can't really know what it is like to be there 24 hours a day indefinitely.

Not only was I being careful about what I said and where I went, but everyone else was doing the same thing. It makes for a very weird communication; trying to perpetuate some image of yourself in the way others know you. I didn't feel like I could express my true feelings.

NMN: How did you react to being constantly stopped and searched?

AR: You just be passive and try not to react to things. A bomb goes off or you hear gunfire or the sound of helicopters that are constantly flying over and you try to block it all out. It does

eventually have an effect and all kinds of physical and emotional conditions result.

The women I met who work with the women's organization said they have to always remain strong because if they're not strong, how are other women going to be strong?

NMN: How did these women express to you their desire to link up to the Solidarity movement in the U.S.?

AR: They want connection with the United States. Not to come and dictate an idea or position but to have the facts related and let people form an opinion about the U.S./Salvador situation and to act. They need monetary support. Even if an American citizen doesn't agree with some of the tactics of the FMLN or with the ways things are being done in El Salvador, I think we all can agree that everyone has the right to health, education, water, to life, to not being tortured.

We can support El Salvador by just listening, by being as aware as we can - just as we listen to what the Bush administration has to say. There are several groups right here that can update you on campaigns to free prisoners or which send relief to the people suffering from the war.

NMN: How much does the U.S. government give to the Salvadorean government every year?

AR: Exactly, when you look over the Estado Mayor (upper class neighborhood of San Salvador) and you see the BMWs and Mercedes it is very clear where the money's going. The air force still flies around in very old planes.

NMN: What inspired you?

AR: The people who were organized. No matter how much threat is against them they are able to sustain and survive emotionally where others are not. Others felt like things would happen to them and they couldn't do anything about them.

NMN: That is a major difference.

AR: Yes, to take control of your destiny and (in the case of the Salvadoreans) at an incredible risk. That was inspiring to me.

Next month "Home Front" a report on Mission-based organizations working toward the resolution of the Salvadorean crisis.

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# MISSION: COMPUTE

## BACK to BASICS Part III

by Manuel E. Dávila

*Although MS DOS is almost a decade old, most users only scratch the surface of its possibilities.*

Once you have learned to give commands to your computer, the next thing is to learn what are the different commands and what they can do.

The internal command that will really help you organize your co-existence with your computer is the one that creates directories and sub-directories to organize the data stored on diskettes and hard disks.

The main directory in your disks is called the ROOT DIRECTORY, and is represented by a back slash "\" (Do not take it for the other slash "/"). Under this root directory you can create sub-directories, and more sub-directories under those. The number of directories you can create varies with size of the disk.

The important thing before creating directories is to know under which directory you are working. This is also called PATH, that is, the route to where you store your data or programs.

Then you use the command MKDIR or its abbreviated form, MD.

Let's say you want to create one sub-directory called PAYROLL, and create two other sub-directories under PAYROLL, one called OLD and the other NEW. If no other sub-directory exists in your disk then you will be creating a sub-directory one level under the root directory.

Thus, at the C> or A> prompt we type: MD PAYROLL and hit the ENTER key.

DOS will not tell you whether or not the directory was created. You may now command your computer to list the files in your root directory by entering the command DIR and hitting the ENTER key. You will see your directory named PAYROLL and the word <DIR> in brackets meaning that PAYROLL is a directory as opposed to a file.

Now, how do you get into your directory? You simply use the internal command CD, which stands for CHANGE DIRECTORY.

So, we type: CD PAYROLL and hit the ENTER key to move from the root directory into the PAYROLL directory.

We should be inside the PAYROLL directory now, but how do we know. The CD command also stands for CHECK DIRECTORY besides being used to switch directory. However, you only need to type CD and nothing else. If we type CD from under the PAYROLL directory (where I think we are right now), the prompt will read something like C:\PAYROLL.

Now we can create our NEW and OLD sub-directories under the PAYROLL sub-directory by simply typing: MD NEW and hit the ENTER key to create the NEW sub-directory, and then again type MD OLD and hit the ENTER key. Again, the computer won't let you know whether the directory was created. So, you list the files by typing DIR and you will see NEW and OLD listed with the word <DIR> in brackets next to them.

If you want to get into any of those sub-directories then you will type CD OLD or CD NEW to get into either of them.

Switching from and to sub-directories can become a nightmare if you don't learn a little bit about the PATH. A while ago we said that the PATH is the route to where you store your data or programs. If you become familiar with the PATH, you should have no problem moving around.

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I go, you go, we gn po-mo. But say hey, say what? The elusive genetics of a trend has darvinated into an elusivicity of substance. We have met the enema and it is us. The San Francisco Weekly says po-mo is artist-Navy landlord-tenant squabbles at the Point. Intellectuals hail po-mo as the last frontier of liberation from constraint (until a po-mo hobo who has liberated his bladder and salivary glands sits next to them on the 26-Valencia). Cyra McFadden doesn't know what it is either but that it does have a Michael Jackson and he's French. But du u know Po-mo when u sniff it? Comes now Vegecat, a chemical supplement for guilty New Age pet owners who want to protest the exploitation of farm animals but are tired of seeing their pets shrivel up and die from lack of proteins and amino acids. I fear bad consequences for us pigeons with thousands of felines

roaming the streets and parks in acute meat by-product withdrawal, but go ahead anyway, pick up that phnne: 503/268-4880. Also for sale Vegekit (for the little suckers), Vegehog and Vegemite (for etymologists). No Po-mo? Give me liberty or, better yet, Green Death and sliders. Warren Hinckle has produced a lot of good ideas and a lot of duds and his campaign to rescue Rainier Ale from the corporate dimwiddies of the Northwest is one of the former. Take a sixer all the way to White Castle Day in downtown Sannazay, June 17th, upon which 200,000 greasy little hamburgers will be trucked in from Ohio and sold in cases of 60 for \$32.50 to the fortunate few with advanced reservations: 408/924-1219. Positively Po-mo! Harley-Davidson wine coolers, four for a buck at Canned Foods. Contains 6% alcohol. Also, sulfites. Yum! Either/or the following is a Post-Modernism too. Guess which:

- In the Chinese demonstrations, students on their way to rally for democracy boarded the buses and were told that their fares were waived, the ride was on the house...
- In the California democracy, Senator and would-be Governor Pete Wilson demonstrated that he had received gifts of a Chinese place-setting, season passes to the track and a puppet. (The puppet was not identified.)
- To this old wire sitter, maybe post-modernism is just a case of the same old horse coming around the same old track and ridden by the same old puppets. After all, modern times are eclipsed by the future; in the past, the right wing of Bohemia called



itself the Futurists, and adopted Mussolini as their guru. I goo, you goo, we goo... it's a Little Duce Coup, you all know what they like. MUNI isn't giving free rides to those with a beef (or slide) against the government, but they have loosened some requirements for handicap transit discounts while tightening some others. It's now easier for AIDS/ARC patients to get passes, but a number of other physical and mental ailments have been eliminated. However, persons with "schizophrenic disorder, paranoid disorder and physchotic (sic) disorder" will still be eligible for the discount MUNI fare. That figures. Anybody catch the little item about our Mayor throwing his weight around on the Beijing to Great Wall Highway? Cop pulls his driver over for speeding and confiscates his license. Hizzoner hit the great ceiling, took down the badge number and reportedly vowed to get that Chinese CHIP transferred to Mongolia. Not that the policeman's lot is any happier Stateside. The Chronicle reported that "S.F. Undercover Nares May Be Put In Uniforms". Doesn't that sort of defeat the purpose? The dealers around the BART Plaza are going to have to be very, very out of it to sell their wares to these uniformed undercovers. And, before we leave the subject of bad newspapers and China, remember that it takes an occasional reading of the San Jose Mercury News to drive home the mediocrity and mendaciousness of the Exorcicle. Take the latter's recent "expose" column "proving" foreign aid to third world nations supporting U.S. policies is more efficient than that to those who do not... by comparing the economies of the dozen or so Asian and Caribbean states that have captured most of America's vanished jobs with a like number of drought and war-ridden African basket cases. Please!

investors; failure to aggressively convert innovative ideas into practical applications; loss of manufacturing to other countries because of outdated equipment; and the belief that becoming a "service economy" will somehow protect the United States from overseas competition." Po-mo is also, of course, post-literate but that maybe wannant be the case if we had a pre-po-mo press, or at least a truck of week-old sliders in the parking lot. The Exorcicle publishers are lucky boys, indeed, that their only competition is television with its endless stream of badd ideas, the latest being sequelling (or, worse, prequelling) network made-for-TV movies with "in-depth reports" that chew up newscast time and squeeze out all current events that lack marketing potential. The environment, the economy and the Panama invasion? Don't worry, be happy. Wait till the MFTV movies about Man n' Ollie, Mike Millikin and Captain Whiskey Valdez ooze their way through the pipeline (unless the latter finds a bit part in the next Spielass spectacle). Now that the furor over the rewritten script about the AIDS patient who was officially lynched and carried off in a toxic waste sack has subsided "Midnight Caller", San Francisco's contribution to the medium, may be safely watched for its continuity gaffes, solid B-stories and suspiciously local references. One recent episode had a character who died of a ruptured spleen, shortly thereafter the hero turns a corner in Alamo Square and stops to view the landscape from Potrero Heights. And that's the actual po-mo sho. Whatever, po-mo'll have to gro mo to match up to the standards of Lucy, Gilda or the king of cool, Guy Williams, aka Zorro, the anarchic Californio who taught millions of children that the best way to deal with unwanted authority is to slash a Z across its trousers. Zorro died, alone and forgotten, in Argentina (!) appropriately on Cinco de Mayo. Garcias all over the world raise their topas in relief. Sky Wars!: A correspondent in the Psychic Reader takes a local Wizard to the boards for manipulating a rainstorm to water her roses without raining out the adjacent A's game. "A cloud busted over a ballgame in Oakland," she charges, "may have far-reaching consequences, extending and aggravating the drought over our thirsty land." Besides, said Wizard lifted not a finger towards Baltimore when the boys lost a sure 3-0 win to the forces of Poseidon in the bottom of the fifth. Check out the Hanna-Barbera display at the Owl Gallery, 465 Powell through June 19th, an exhibit of old favorites like Fred Flinstone, Magilla Gorilla, Quick Draw McGraw and Top Cat and post-modernist icons like George Jetson who, having had his voice die before he was born, epitomizes the po-mo yo-yo making the sign of the Z slo-mo over the City. Not only that, he's got the pink slip, Daddy.



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by Norman Page

May has been one hell of a busy month for me so I didn't get much of a chance to cruise around the Mission. I know that probably sounds like a well-deserved vacation for some of you. But I was lucky enough to enjoy the Mission's most popular fests, Cinco de Mayo and

Carnaval, which were both a blast. If you didn't have as much fun as I did then you ought to be banished to Pacific Heights or somewhere else equally as sterile. But enough about me and my hectic month of May. Let's get to the meat of the matter.

## ARINELL'S



Photo by Lisa Marlow

Checked out Arinell Pizza at 509 Valencia for a slice. It's the same Arinell that's been in Bezerkeley since 1975. Same pizza, same ingredients, same philosophy: to serve up the best pizza in the neighborhood. Owner Ron Demirdjian says he can do this because he cuts his cost by not delivering his pizza. Besides, who the hell likes luke-

warm pizza anyhow?

Ron avoids big hype advertising and concentrates on making his pizza like the used to do down on "da cornah" in New York. That's why he chose da Mission after so many years over in dat Other Bay, "It's Da City, ya know?" Yeah, as a matter of fact I do, Ron. Or should I say "Vincenzo"?

## BALOMPIE



Photo by Lisa Marlow

I also heard that Balompie Cafe at 3349 18th Street is now serving breakfast, lunch and dinner these days. Owner Amadeo Gonzalez has expanded the menu to include seafood, Mexican and Salvadorean dishes. And you can see soccer matches taped on the VCR. Amadeo tells me he's

got tapes of the World Cup matches from 1986. Brazil versus France in that shootout finale - now that I'd love to see. Balompie also has a beer and wine license so you can kick back with a cold frosty while watching the week's match on the television.





## SCHOONER TAVERN

Photo by Lisa Marlow



Speaking of sports fans, I went over to the Schooner Tavern at Valencia and 26th a little while ago to watch a Warriors game. What a great place to see a game! A huge-screen television, sports fans, Giantsvision, and Bass, Heineken, Moosehead and Taunton's cider on draught (not to mention Dave's scrupulous Guinness pour - the best head in the City.) And every few months, part-owner Owen Harrington and the Boys decide to rent a bus and go to a Giants game where they barbecue and toss back a couple

of chilly ones. I'll do my best to keep you up-to-date on the next "field trip".

And speaking of field trips, get this one: Terry at Bangkok 16 is offering a series of tours of Thailand, two in September and two in November. Ten days in Bangkok and Pattata Beach or ten days in Bangkok, Changmai and Phuket. If you'd like to hear more about them, stop reading and get over to Bangkok 16 for lunch or dinner. They're at 16th and Guerrero.

## NOBLE CENTER

Photo by Fuminori Saito



The artists' community in San Francisco is lying down, becoming unaggressive. No more risks are being taken! Such is the opinion of Henry Jackson, young artist and director of the rejuvenated Noble Center for the Arts at Notre Dame Plaza.

Henry relishes the Oakland arts funding system where artists may show side by side regardless of commercial accomplishment and potential. This is exactly the problem Henry seeks to alleviate in making Noble a home of sorts for Bay Area artists, both established and undiscovered. For example, work space is available to anyone interested while, at the same time, Noble will be hosing a retrospective of the works of SOMA kingpin Guy Dawson at the end of July.

Simply stated, Noble serves as an extraordinary rental space for artists, writers, lectures, workshops, special events, shows, etc. etc. and anyone else who might benefit from 1500 square feet of work space, stunning 35 foot cathedral ceilings and two fully-equipped stages.

Among the programs offered at Noble are the Thursday night Artists' Drop Shop and the "Seen and Unseen" school of figure drawing taught by local artist Sharon Pearson. The drop-shop serves as "a combination artist drop-in and mixed media workshop" where "the artist may enjoy creative freedom without instruction". "Seen and Unseen" is a rather fascinating workshop

where actors, dancers, mimes and other performers who are "in tune with the human body" rehearse a small performance of their choice which the class absorbs and interprets to include the motion and emotion as well as the static representation of figure.

Henry is very eager to hear new and exciting ideas concerning the imaginative and creative use of the space at Noble. He expresses a keen interest in future poetry readings (due to the magnificent acoustics and an apparent lack of a large forum for such an activity). He would love some feedback on the idea.

Noble also serves as an excellent space for artists' shows and exhibitions. So if you are interested, please get in touch with Henry. Noble Center for the Arts is located at 347 Dolores across from Mission Dolores at the Notre Dame Plaza and Henry can be reached at 742-9232 for any questions, suggestions and ideas you may have.

Well, that's it for me folks. I've almost pleased my editor as far as space is concerned. And remember, June is the month for roses and honeysuckle, the onslaught of "summer" and Father's Day (June 18th.) Later.

The sign of a genuine underground is its power to provoke antagonism.

RONALD SUKENICK

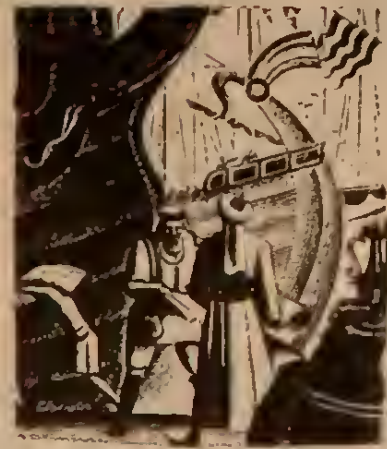
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## NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT



Photo by Marvin Collins

### THIRD WORLD PHOTO EXHIBIT

A photo show of works in black and white by Marvin Collins (an East Bay photographer) will show at the Buffet Flat Bookstore beginning on June 2th. The photos, taken in Cuba and Nicaragua, are neither touristic nor politically didactic. Their virtue lies in the sense of complete comfort in unexpected places.

One photo, which has been frequently reproduced, shows a Nicaraguan, an old man, guarding a hilltop of night near El Cua. He sits relaxed on a chair and leans on

his rifle. In another Nicaraguan photo, the only color photo in the show, two women in a transport seem to be discussing a bright red lamp. In the background, the green fields project a sense of quiet.

The photo reproduced here shows local Central American solidarity worker Tony Ryan.

Buffet Flats is located at 307 Cortland Avenue. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 12-8 PM, Saturday 12-7 PM, Sunday 12-6 PM.

### SYCAMORE STREET NEWS

Everybody on Sycamore Street is excited to read about our neighborhood in the North Mission News. We want to thank the News for giving us the room to express our point of view and to ask for support from other people in the Mission. This gives us all a great sense of pride in our neighborhood.

This month's report focuses on the issue of alcohol abuse and the sale of cheap fortified wines to homeless alcoholics by certain markets in the North Mission. The Sycamore Neighbors' Group has gained the support of the North Mission Association in asking the Alcohol Beverage Control Board to place a moratorium on the issuing of new off-sale liquor licenses in the North Mission; according to our latest survey we have found there are more than 200 alcohol distribution points in the North Mission. We have more "watering holes"

than we have fire hydrants!!!

Also, in cooperation with the North Of Market Planning Coalition, we are joining in a program of systematic boycotts aimed at stores which sell cheap fortified wines to homeless alcoholics. Our first target for boycott is the Mission Grocery at 2128 Mission Street (on the west side of Mission between 17th and Sycamore). We ask everyone in the neighborhood to boycott Mission Grocery and shop someplace else until they clean up their act. **BOYCOTT MISSION GROCERY!!!**

PS: The people on Sycamore Street have also had some trouble with street punks smashing car windows. There is now a \$100 reward for any information leading to the apprehension of anyone smashing car windows on Sycamore Street. Well, that's the news from Sycamore Street for this edition. See you here next time!

### OLIVE TREE LIBERATION FRONT

San Francisco's Recreation and Parks Commission may have found a loophole to let them chop down 60 trees from

the Civic Center olive groves, despite opposition from members of the S.F. Landmarks Board and the Olive Tree Liberation

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Front.

"Wreck-Park" project manager Deborah Learner says the City Attorney's office has advised her that the Landmarks Board no longer has jurisdiction over James Rolph Plaza, the area between Civic Center and the Main Library where many homeless people camp out. Learner, therefore, feels free to go ahead with plans to chop down trees, demolish a fountain, tear out benches, and do anything else she wants to, without clearing her plans with the Landmarks Board, the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors or anyone else — least of all the homeless people of San Francisco.

Back in February, the Landmarks Board voted to continue discussion of Learner's \$1.2 million plan, which some board members found unclear, ill-advised and badly timed. Sensing defeat, Learner apparently decided that if she couldn't get approval from the board, she'd find a way to do without it.

Deputy City Attorney Kate Herrmann says that the area is pending Board of Supes consideration as a city-designated landmark. According to the City Planning Code, for the first six months that the proposal was pending, the plan was under Landmarks Board jurisdiction. "After six months, it's unclear who's in charge," Herrmann said. Learner seems confident of the answer to that question. But Landmarks Board members are not so sure.

"We are responsible to protect what is, after all, the City's front yard," says board member Michel Crowe, an architectural historian for the National Park Service. "The Board voted a continuance; therefore the matter is still in our hands." Board Secretary Vincent Marsh agrees, and has promised to contact the City Attorney's office to resolve this jurisdictional dispute.

For more information, call Jean at 648-3222.

## BROTHER ED



When the definitive history of hipsterism is written, a goodly portion of it will be concerned with the life of one Edward (Brother Ed) Langdon, exuberant poet, worldly philosopher and chef par excellence (as well as a number of things that are best left unsaid here).

Brother Ed was a founding genius of the Brotherhood of Light, a high tech hallucination enhancer that was a mainstay of 60's rock concerts and is still truckin' to this day. Brother Ed, a long time Mission resident, has stretched the envelope of

human physical limitations beyond the point of no return is currently en route to his native North Dakota where he will ponder THE BIG QUESTION, or, in his own words, "I stand at ground zero with love in my heart."

His good friends at the North Mission News offer him a good journey and this insensitive quatrain to see him on his way:

What a piece of work is man  
He lives as long as his liver can  
What a piece of work is Ed  
Mean as a snake and still not dead

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For more info. regarding this offer, please call  
Henry Jackson, Director: 415-742-9272

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FRI	JUNE 02	D.J. DANCING with DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
SAT	JUNE 03	Dance at the ATOMIC CAFE w/ d.j. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	JUNE 04	D.J.'s BLACKSTONE - House/Acid Funk	9:00	FREE
MON	JUNE 05	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ DJ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	JUNE 06	"TIME ZONE" Club with D.J. DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
WED	JUNE 07	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	JUNE 08	POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. mink	9:00	FREE
FRI	JUNE 09	D.J. DANCING with DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
SAT	JUNE 10	Dance at the ATOMIC CAFE w/ d.j. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	JUNE 11	D.J.'s BLACKSTONE - House/Acid Funk	9:00	FREE
MON	JUNE 12	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ DJ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	JUNE 13	"TIME ZONE" Club with D.J. DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
WED	JUNE 14	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	JUNE 15	POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. mink	9:00	FREE
FRI	JUNE 16	D.J. DANCING with DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
SAT	JUNE 17	Dance at the ATOMIC CAFE w/ d.j. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	JUNE 18	D.J.'s BLACKSTONE - House/Acid Funk	9:00	FREE
MON	JUNE 19	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ DJ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	JUNE 20	"TIME ZONE" Club with D.J. DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
WED	JUNE 21	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	JUNE 22	POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. mink	9:00	FREE
FRI	JUNE 23	D.J. DANCING with DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
SAT	JUNE 24	Dance at the ATOMIC CAFE w/ d.j. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	JUNE 25	D.J.'s BLACKSTONE - House/Acid Funk	9:00	FREE
MON	JUNE 26	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ DJ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	JUNE 27	"TIME ZONE" Club with D.J. DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE
WED	JUNE 28	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	JUNE 29	POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. mink	9:00	FREE
FRI	JUNE 30	D.J. DANCING with DOC MARTIN	9:00	FREE

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**JUNE**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1**  
Uplifting angst and ennui are the foci of *The Scream Show*, a painting and video exhibit by Manuel Ocampo, Clancy Cavnar, Scott Williams and Chuck Z. ATA, 992 Valencia, through June 18; today's opening is at 7:30 for \$3. 824-3890 for more info.  
  
Election prntest march against El Salvador's ARENA frontman, Alfredo Cristiani. Put on your walking shoes at 7 pm at 24th & Mission for a stroll to Union Square. Hey, it'll be good practice for the Quayle election protest march in '96. 648-8222.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2**  
*La Victima* Benefit for the Good Samaritan Community Center, which helps immigrants get settled. Reception 7 pm, curtain at 8; Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. \$25 tax-deductible as permitted by law (?); call 824-3500 for reservations.  
  
Local 7 Choreographers presents new works by Barbara Bellemey, Carla Blank, Bonni Brooks, Ben Carter, Bridgette and Paul Forrest and Amelia Rudolph. 8:30 pm, Footwork Dance/Theatre, 3221 22nd St. \$7; call 824-5044. Also Sat. June 3.  
  
Short on Attitude, a performing group that dares to do the unexpected, like call the Mission "The New Bohemia," presents Put It On The Wall with dance, theater, and music. 8:30 pm, the Lab, 1805 Divisadero. \$7; call 346-4063. Also June 3, 9 & 10.  
  
The Family Men, Apple Jack and Steve play blues and other kinds of traditional American music. 8 pm, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland, 641-8427.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3**  
Rock against Racism hosted by Komotion Pictures, featuring *Dread Beat and Blood* by Linton Kwesi Johnson and Japanese reggae with Ogie Yocha, as well as Clown and Chester D. and DJs Kayumangui and Brother Kadre. \$5, 8:30, 2779 16th.  
  
Stop Domestic Violence by volunteering at La Casa de las Madres, a women's shelter, childcare & support group, etc. Training today and Sunday. Call 777-1808.  
  
SLUG pntluck picnic (SF League of Urban Gardners) at Potrero del Sol Garden at noon. Workshop at 11 on safely managing pests; \$8 for non-members. 468-0110.  
  
Warts and all examined in a free skin cancer screening at UCSF from 10 am-2 pm. Dermatology Clinic, 3rd Floor, Ambulatory Care Center, 400 Parnassus.  
  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 4**  
There was no quid pro quo or *Pinocchio*, performed by SF Children's Chorus. 7:30 pm, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., FREE. Call 647-6015.  
  
**MONDAY, JUNE 5**  
BATS AIDS Benefit in conjunction with "In Concert Against AIDS." Bay Area Theatre Sports at its sporting best. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th, \$10.  
  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7**  
White Rose Collective Benefit featuring music and the premiere of White Rose video on Katya Kamisurak. So there you have it. 8 pm, Komotion. 2779 16th.  
  
Grand Plan & Excavations, a painting and a photographic installation by Jean Lowe and Anthony Aziz respectively, runs through July 2. Reception June 8 at 7 pm. Southern Exposure Gallery, 401 Alabama. Call 863-2141.  
  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 9**  
Kronos Quartet does Theater Artaud, wreaking some havoc on the string quartet in the process. 8 pm, 450 Florida, \$16.50. Call 621-7797. Also June 10.  
  
Jean Luc Mas plays new music for the guitar. 8 pm, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland, 641-8427.

Seven Deadly Sisters, a comic thriller, presented by Pleiades Players at 8 pm thru June 11, with midnight show Saturday. \$5, Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama #127.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 10**  
Music for Children with Mark Smith; stories and sing-alongs, too. 1 pm, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland, 641-8427.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**  
Passion and Repression assesses the current state of the lesbian/gay sexual revolution, with panelists Susie Bright, Andrea Canaan, Rodrigo Reyes and Eric Rofes. \$4-6 to benefit Nicaragua AIDS education. 7 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia.

20th Century Compnsers get their due from the Community Music Center's faculty. 3 pm, 544 Capp St., for a mere \$5. Call 647-6015.

**MONDAY, JUNE 12**  
Open Gay and Lesbian Reading hosted by Stephanie Henderson. Free, and all levels and (artistic) disciplines invited. 7:30 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia.

BATS Rising Talents from its Theatre Sports workshops battle it out sportingly and comically. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th, \$5. 824-8220.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13**  
Cantando Bajitrn or Singing Softly, read from by author Carmen de Monteflores, traces three generations of a Puerto Rican family. 7:30 pm, Modern Times, free.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14**  
If So, Why Not? If Not, Why? You'll know even less if you don't go see this Christopher Beck & Co. dance/theater piece with 18 performers from a few months to 78 years old. 8:30, Wed-Sat. through June 24. \$10/\$12; New College, 777 Valencia.

Options for Wnmen over 40 (besides joining Beck's troupe - oh, see above) are explored in a series of low-cost workshops at the Women's Building June 14, 16, 28 and 30. 3543 18th St. Call 431-6405 for more information.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15**  
Women Who Wait is an hour long cinema verite look at the villages and families of Mexican migrant workers. 8:30, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$3.

Options for Wnmen over 40 (besides joining Beck's troupe - oh, see above) are explored in a series of low-cost workshops at the Women's Building June 14, 16, 28 and 30. 3543 18th St. Call 431-6405 for more information.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**  
Lesbian and Gay Film Fest starts today at the Castro and Roxie through June 25. For complete list of films, call 861-1404 or get tickets at Captain Video, 2358 Market.

Salsa for Palestine to benefit the Palestine Solidarity Committee's Latino Task Force. Music by Conjunto Cespedes with KPFA's Jesus Varela as MC. 8 pm, Capp Street Center, 362 Capp, \$7-\$10. Call 861-1552.

ROVA Saxaphone Quartet performs newly commissioned works by jazz composer Henry Thredgill and electronics composer Chris Brown. 8:30 pm, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, \$12. Also June 17.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**  
Remember Soweto by marking the anniversary of the Uprising. Live music with Defectors, Wasrael, and Chaose Trance Drumming; poetry by Celeste Connor. 9 pm, Komotion, 2779 16th.

A guy named Howie sings songs for children and tells them about a few things maybe they haven't thought too much about. 11 am, Buffet Flats, 307 Cortland.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18**  
Women's Social for older lesbians & friends, sponsored by Operation Concern, with music, dancing, billiards and more. 3 pm, Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero, free.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20**  
Gay Women's Rights meeting with Roberta Achtenberg on Partners and Children and Pat Norman on Political Activism. Sponsored by SF NOW at the Women's Bldg., 3543-18th between Valencia and Guerrero, 7:30 pm. Call 861-8660.

Latin Printmaking Exhibit begins at Galeria de la Raza: works by Jerry Concha, Nelson Felix, Oscar Gerzso, Carlos Pasquetti, and Gustavo Rivera. Artists' reception June 23 at 7 pm; exhibit through July 22. 2851 24th at Bryant. Call 826-8009.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**  
Theatre Grottesco, a Parisian/Detroit based group, is comedy and a celebration of theatrical madness. 8 pm, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, \$15, 621-7797.

Also June 22-24, wladditional Sunday at 2 pm.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22**  
Macho Sluts reading and book signing by author Pat Califia. Promised to make you re-think what you thought you knew about lesbian sex. (Don't worry, it's still between women.) 7:30, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. Donation requested.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 23**  
Mandolin Recital by Jackeline Rago, sponsored by SF Music and Arts Institute. Free, 8 pm, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24**  
Gay Comedy Extravaganza or Stonewall Laugh Riot, Get Off My Dress! with Tom Ammiano, Laurie Bushman, Mark Johnson, Kelly Kittell, Karen Ripley, Jeanine Strobel, Karen Williams, and unalphabetized more. 9 pm, Victoria Theater, 2961 16th. \$10 advance, \$12 day of the show. Tickets at BASS or the box office. 863-7576.

Betty Bacon tells stories for children. All sorts of stories. 11 am, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland, 641-8427.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**  
5 Choreographers, down 2 from the event on the 2nd, in Lazarus/Dance New and Nearly New Dances. The basic quintet is Anne Bluthenthal, M.M. Colbert, Joan Lazarus, Mary Reid and Emelle Sonh. 7:30 pm, Footwork, 3221 22nd, \$5. 824-5044.

**MONDAY, JUNE 26**  
BATS Varsity square off in a do-and-laugh Theatre Sports contest. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th, \$5.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 27**  
Tinta Me Angelitos Negros publishing party with creators Ana Barreto and Adriana Batista. This handmade artbook is a special edition of *Esporadica*, the Mexican feminist comic book. 7:30 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. Free. 282-9246.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28**  
Komotion Koffeehouse features a free show with poets, music, open mike and excellent food (presumably not for free). 8 pm, Komotion, 2779 16th.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29**  
Adrienne Rich reads from and signs her new book of poetry, *Time's Power*. Donation requested. 7:30 pm, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. Donation requested.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 30**  
Harcore Live Art from Northern Ireland's Andre Sutt and Tara Babel (Saturday), and England's Shaun Caton (today). These artists use their bodies and immediate environment (Here & Now to '60s folks) to explore the place of the individual within consumer culture. Pay your \$5 per show, \$8 two-day pass at ATA, 922 Valencia. Call 824-3890 for the immediate environment times of the performances.

Blues with Chester D. That says it all, doesn't it? 8 pm, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland, 641-8427.

ONGOING

Nicaraguan Environmental Restoration Brigades from June 11 to July 8 and July 30 to Aug. 26, with more planned. Nicaragua Information Center, 549-1387.

Support Group for Older Gay Men meets Mondays from 7-9 pm. Operation Concern, 1853 Market Street. Free. Call 626-7000.

Artists Environmental Crises: a call for entries on environmental havoc for an August exhibit at Eye Gallery. All visual media accepted; submit up to slides and \$10 fee by July 1 to 1151 Mission, 94103. Call 431-6911 for more information.

Hnusing Problems Advice in English and Spanish provided free by attorneys at La Raza Centro each Tuesday from 4 to 6 pm. 2588 Mission #200; call 826-5506.

Lifetime of concerned photography, an exhibit of works by Life photographers Hansel Mieth Hagel and Otto Hagel, has its reception (the former plans to attend) at 7:30 pm. Exhibit runs through July 8. Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission. 431-6911.

Calendar listings are free to all Mission organizations; \$5 for outsider mentions.

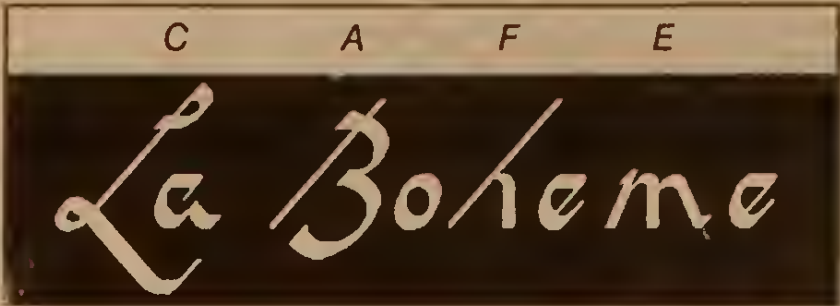
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El Beergarden noon-7  
Judy Johnson Torch Blues  
J. J. Malone Dance Blues  
Curtis Lawson California Blue Band Dance Blues  
Jeff Narell Rhythm and Steel Caribbean Dance Music  
Voz Brazilian and Pop  
Stephen Herrick Sextet - Clairdee Latin Fusion, Pop  
Candela Salsa  
Danny Williams Ngalo Baalum Maureen Brownsey Scott Capurro  
Marilyn Pittman Renee Hicks Ed Crasnick Dan Morgan  
Diane Amos Josh Kornbluth Maria Faizone Marly Bleckman  
Marga Gomez Teresa Holcomb  
Nancy Wenstrom Dancin' Rock Blues  
dj Cory Iwatsu  
dj Peggy Key  
dj Elton Brown  
dj Cory Iwatsu  
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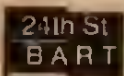


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—by Robert Cole

ALMANAC: Imagine yourself floating above the center of our solar system. As you look down you can see Saturn and Neptune in a perfect alignment during June and they form an axis which points to the center of our galaxy. This alignment is extremely rare and powerful. Little Planet Earth is cutting through the stream of solar wind created by this alignment. It has been predicted that the functions of nations on Earth will be terribly upset and irreparably changed by this alignment.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 19): Lay low this month and keep your ear to the ground. There's a stampede headed this way and you're standing directly in the pathway of a major sociological trend. This proves that you got here first, but it also means that you'll have to assume the role of leadership later on when the heavy honchos arrive in town. Gather your theories, read up on ideologies, shop around for the right phrases to give your message mass appeal. It's a time to study and study hard.

TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20): Incredible financial opportunities await you this month; only a flimsy pseudo-generosity could distract you from this big chance to strike it rich. Notify your friends and lovers that you have little time for kissy-kissy this month; it's all work and no play. More importantly you cannot waste your income propping up the high hopes of some lazy bum just because he/she has a pretty smile. Talk your way past the periphery and walk right into the center of the major action.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 20): HAPPY BIRTHDAY! You are such a sweetie pie and everybody is simply bowled over by your endearing impression. You have the look. You wrote the book. Flaunt your carefree fashion this month and ceaselessly preach the gospel of comfort. Hard work is the devil's way of destroying life on this planet, so you tell him! To hell with tight schedules and greedy demands. It's your birthday! For your astrological chart, send birth date/time/place and \$2 to Robert Cole, P.O. Box 884561, San Francisco, CA 94188.

CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 22): Very creepy coincidences slip through the cracks of your normal reality this month; if you weren't skeptical of things like black magic, you could convince yourself that somebody's put a minor curse on you.

Obviously you've been reading too many astrology columns and listening to too many witches. Dump the heebie-jeebie for a while and escape from this black hole pronto. Wrap yourself in golden light and stay a few nights in the woods. A vacation from the city will make it all better.

LEO (JUL 23 - AUG 22): This month you are overwhelmed with an outrageous assumption that your whole life is starting all over again. It's a new chapter in your novel of romantic exploits and business adventures, so you better let the old ideals and dreams slip into never-never land and brace yourself for this entirely different experience. You've never played by the rules of this new game, so resist the temptation to act like you know it all. Struggle with your innocence and let the good fairies protect you.

VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22): The outrageous glamor of this month knocks your socks off, so prepare yourself to walk around in bare feet. That country-boy or country-

girl image will take you a long way especially in a crowd of overly sophisticated bureaucratic types. Pick your nose, bit your nails, hold your fork the wrong way and you'll end up being the star of the party. But remember, you're far away from home and people respect you more as a freak than as a friend.

LIBRA (SEP 23 - OCT 22): Old-fashioned religious piety stirs a very strong urge in you this month. Praying, fasting, chanting, wishing and hoping all make lots of sense especially in these times of general social confusion. Take a good look at the spiritual traditions of your family and try some more of the "old ways" before experimenting with "new age" stuff for the time being. As much as you'd like to, you simply cannot break with your heritage right now.

SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 22): Everybody always said that Scorpio was the sexiest sign of all, and you'll go a long way this month to prove it. One intense sexual liaison is simply not enough; you need three or maybe even four. Constant overwhelming closeness is the only thing that makes you feel alive. Despite all the neighbors' incessant gossip, indulge in an orgy of mutual gratification. Willingly lose your mind in order to find your body.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21): Listen up and listen good. If your lover's business is doing better than your own, it's time to set aside your self-righteousness, give up your own petty projects and devote yourself entirely to helping him/her make a stab at real success. No more dilly-dallying with personal distractions. The facts prove that your partner is on the verge of something big and your help will push that project over the edge of possibility into reality. Consider yourself a good luck charm for your lover.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19): Standing behind the register and taking people's money may not be the most glamorous pastime in the world but it does pay your bills. Besides, direct immediate contact with the public gives you added insight into the real lives of real people. Your artistic experience will go nowhere without a deeper understanding of practical reality. For the time being, submit to the routine and collect your check every week. Next month will be much more romantic.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20 - FEB 18): Falling in love with a young whippersnapper is only half as bad as trying to work with one. This month, a young and terribly darling person grabs onto you as an authority figure and expects you teach him/her the ropes. You may have the knowledge required to teach a particular job or art, but this youngster has a hot lusty passion and a desire to show you a thing or two too. Everything is fine as long as you remain the master and he/she the slave.

PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20): June is usually the month when you make big changes in your housing situation. This year, involvement with a major player means that you could move out of your modest slum dwelling and into a sophisticated urban setting; the change will put you right in the thick of things career-wise. This is a rare opportunity which should not be missed. If money's a problem, ask your parental figures for one last loan. The risk is ruely worth their while.



# COFFEE WITH YADA

Now that my column for the North Mission News has catapulted me to such vertiginous, dizzying, sickening heights of god-like fame, I've at least been hanging out with a better class of people. Yesterday morning, for instance, I was having coffee at the Artfart with Yada, the most recent incarnation of a 500,000-year-old Spirit Master from the lost kingdom of Yuga in the Himalayas.

We were sitting in the southern front-end section of the Artfart, trying to pool our esoteric wisdom to scam a third refill of the cup we'd been sharing when, suddenly, our attention was commanded by a psychic disturbance in Sickmore Alley, right outside the plate-glass window of the cafe. Across the alley, against the wall of the liquor store, seven teenage "wilders" were kicking the proverbial shit out of a wino. Apparently, they were angered over the wino's slow response to their request for money. No cops in sight, of course.

It happened very quickly. One of the boys, maybe 15 years old, went through the wino's pockets while some of the others held the old rummy down. When the kid came up with only 18 cents, the wino curled up in a tight ball against the kicks and punches. Afterwards, the boys strode off like killers in a spaghetti western, leaving



Photo by Kaie Freeman

the wino sprawled against the wall pretty much as he had been — except for the blood sputtering from his nose over his toothless mouth and grizzled chin, where it mingled with spit...

The kids came back an hour later with enough money for a crack pipe from the liquor store, and something to smoke in it. By that time, the rummy had managed to clean himself up and panhandle enough

money for another bottle of Wild Irish Pazuzu. The eight of them, the kids and the wino, all went in the store together, each enthralled to his own purpose, and they all came out together, too. The kids ignored the rummy and vice versa. The old man went back to his alley and the kids went wherever kids go these days to kill brain cells and each other.

I looked at Yada over our empty cup.

"What do you make of that?"  
Yada plumbed the depths of his arcane wisdom, at the same time turning his lint-filled pockets inside-out in search of change but finding only a crumpled food stamp. Finally he shook his 500,000-year-old god-head and looked lamely at me. "I dunno," he said, his anchorless gaze drifting to the liquor store as a puddle quickly formed between the wino's splayed-out legs. "But I'll bet that store'd sell us a beer for this food stamp!"

- by Frank Deadbeat

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THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 20, 1988

Outside the city park on  
Cunningham Street, San Francisco....  
The low conversations  
heard in Spanish at night.  
I discover  
what cannot be  
silence under a  
3/4 moon while on  
a bench, facing Valencia Street, behind me  
dusty city park, rectangular  
cement court for the basketball players. There is  
a sense of  
non-absolute  
distance in the  
feeling of each  
car as it cruises Valencia  
in its own mood.  
Soon  
five men in dark hair  
pile out of a station wagon. I think of the  
impossibility of  
what I must do --  
how the strain  
is incredible --  
my heart will or  
will not take it:  
the poet is on a  
rock face -- scaling  
convention when  
he should be  
traversing it --  
illogical and inconsistent  
There is a burst of harmonica music  
in the park from behind me, but the basketball court  
remains still  
near Cunningham and Valencia,  
where the numbers  
over the street sign read  
zero zero zero,  
but an arrow points  
to the left.

Across the street  
is a nightclub called Club Chatterbox,  
cellblock acoustics,  
purple and black zebra decor.  
Closer, and between myself and the  
nightclub,  
a red sports car  
explodes in a high-pitched alarm  
as two teenagers  
smash open a front window and try to grab  
whatever they can find.

by Tony Vaughan





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